

House File 2462

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AN ACT

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT CHILD
WELFARE DIVERSION AND MEDIATION PILOT PROJECTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. CHILD WELFARE MEDIATION PILOT PROJECTS. The
department of human services shall implement one or more child
welfare diversion and mediation pilot projects through the
offices of the county attorney. The projects shall be
implemented in separate counties commencing during the fiscal
year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005. The
purposes of the projects are to divert selected child abuse
and neglect cases that may otherwise result in a child in need
of assistance adjudication, improve permanency for children,
promote family unification, and reduce state expenditures
associated with adjudication of child protection cases.
Selection of children and families for participation in a
pilot project shall be based upon diversion criteria mutually
agreed upon by the department and a pilot project. The
department shall be assisted by the pilot projects in
collecting data to analyze the effectiveness of the pilot
projects and the department shall submit an initial evaluation
to the general assembly on or before December 15, 2007. The
savings attributable to the pilot projects shall be calculated
and may be allocated to the projects as necessary to assist
with operating expenses.

Sec. 2. CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE FAMILY CASE STAFFING
PILOT PROJECT. The department of human services shall
implement a child in need of assistance family case staffing
pilot project in at least two counties. Under the pilot
project, unless the department determines that the pilot
project approach would not be in the child's best interest,
prior to a child in need of assistance petition being filed,
the department shall conduct a full case staffing for the
child's case. The staffing participants shall include but are
not limited to relevant treatment providers, the child's
parents or guardians, and other persons involved with the
child. The purposes of the pilot project are to divert
selected child abuse and neglect cases that may otherwise
result in a child in need of assistance adjudication, improve
permanency for children, promote family unification, and
reduce state expenditures associated with adjudication of
child in need of assistance cases.

CHRISTOPHER C. RANTS
Speaker of the House

JEFFREY M. LAMBERTI
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and
is known as House File 2462, Eightieth General Assembly.

MARGARET THOMSON
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved _____, 2004

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Governor